

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DODE-00 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 043492

R 231500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5105

INFO USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, GR

SUBJECT: NEW GREEK ARMY CHIEF STRESSES ROLE OF ARMY IN EXISTING
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

REF: ATHENS 5925

1. NEWLY APPOINTED GREEK ARMY COMMANDER IOANNIS DAVOS ISSUED
ORDER OF DAY AUGUST 22 WHICH COMPLEMENTED IN SPIRIT AND TONE
ORDER OF THE DAY EARLIER THIS WEEK BY BOTH INCOMING AND OUTGOING
CHIEFS OF THE ARMED FORCES. (SEE REFTEL).

2. DAVOS ACKNOWLEDGED HIS AWARENESS OF CRITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH GREECE CURRENTLY PASSING THROUGH AND HIS APPRECIATION OF
THE CONFIDENCE PLACED IN HIM BY BOTH THE "THE POLITICAL AND
MILITARY LEADERSHIPS OF THE NATION". HE NOTED THAT THE CURRENT
DANGERS FACING GREECE ARE CLEAR AND SPECIFIC AND THAT THEY
"DAILY CAST THEIR SHADOW OVER THE COUNTRY". IN LIGHT OF THIS

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SITUATION, HE CONTINUED, NEITHER "HASTY JUDGMENTS NOR RASH
ACTIONS ARE JUSTIFIED", BUT RATHER "CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND

COORDINATED PLANNING".

3. DAVOS THEN STRESSED THE POINT THAT ARMY IS "OBLIGED TO ENSURE FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF GREECE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO ENABLE IT TO CONDUCT SAFELY AND WITHOUT IMPEDIMENTS ITS OWN HARSH STRUGGLE AND TO PERMIT IT TO CARRY OUT THE MOST DELICATE TASKS WHICH IT HAS UNDERTAKEN IN RESPECT TO ITS CRITICAL AND HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITIES." TO CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS, THE ARMY REQUIRES AT ALL LEVELS BOTH STRONG LEADERSHIP AND EXCLUSIVE CONCERN WITH MILITARY PROBLEMS ALONE. DAVOS WARNED THAT THE ARMY SHOULD GUARD ITSELF " AGAINST WHISPERINGS AND THE MULTITUDE OF SLOGANS SKILLFULLY DISPERSED BY OUR NATION'S ENEMIES WITH THE AIM OF FRACTURING THE UNITY OF THE ARMY". COMMENT: DAVOS' ORDER OF THE DAY -- READ TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF FORMER SHAFB BONANOS AND NEWLY APPOINTED SHAFB ARBOUZIS SEEMS TO CONSTITUTE STRONG PLEDGE TO CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT THAT ARMY WILL "STAY IN THE BARRACKS" AND LEAVE NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING TO THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS06036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740234-0269
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740824/aaaaaucf.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 5925
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GREEK ARMY CHIEF STRESSES ROLE OF ARMY IN EXISTING POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
TAGS: MPOL, GR, (DAVOS, IOANNIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005